

Presentation for Erie County Fire Advisory Board

Revised

October 27, 2005

Objective: To allow the Amherst Drill tower to be sold to The Town of Amherst and to be owned and operated by the Amherst Chiefs, Assoc., Clarence/Newstead Chief's Assoc. and the Amherst past Chiefs's Assoc.

Reason: The training facilities in Erie County did not open this year for general fire department use until August 26th, 2005. The design and technology of the tower dates back to the 1960's even though the facility was rebuilt when it was relocated in a land swap in the 1980's.

Proposal: For Amherst/Clarence to take over the facility and improve the facility with a combination of grant money, donations, budget appropriations, user fees and possibly taxpayer dollars.

Concerns:

- Who is in charge of scheduling?
 - Amherst Department of Emergency Services would schedule training similar to the way Erie County handles these requests now.
 - All requests go through this department using an approved form that can be downloaded from the website and submitted electronically.
 - Preferred choice of dates and times and which portion of the facility needed would be requested.
 - The need for county instructor if no approved fire dept. instructor is available.
 - A request for a county instructor will be forwarded to Erie County E.S. to be filled.
 - Amherst/Clarence Departments will be given first choice at the beginning of the training season. Requests after the initial deadline will be scheduled on a first come first serve basis.
- Use of county instructors:
 - County instructors could be used when requested by an individual fire company, just like they are now when a county course is taught at a fire department or tower night.
 - Qualified instructors approved by the Amherst/Clarence Tower Committee (on a pre-approved and established list) would be another source for training leaders.

- "Home Company Instructors" would be qualified instructors that are training their own fire company and therefore covered under VFBL and their "home" departments' insurance and workman's compensation.
 - Instructor Qualifications: (examples – not limited to)
 - NFPA Fire Instructor I
 - Copies of certificates and a letter from the FD Chief stating that he/she is approved to be a training officer at the facility.
 - Annual re-cert letter from the Chief of dept.
 - FD instructors are working as department instructors and are therefore covered by the individual dept's liability and VFBL.
 - Any problems that arise with an instructor will be handled by a review procedure to be handled by the Tower Committee with appropriate action to be taken.
- Capital Improvement fee:
 - Users outside of the Towns of Amherst and Clarence will be charged a capital improvement fee of \$100.00 per session for the use of new structures or props. Use of existing structures will not require a user fee.
 - These rates would not include instructor fees.
 - Fees collected by "outside companies" would be put back into the facility to improve and maintain the facility to bring it up to today's standards.
- Advantages:
 - Takes the burden off Erie County Budgets.
 - Opens facilities on time
 - Improves facilities with enhancements
 - Will add different types of props and practice structures
 - Frees up county instructor money when home department instructor is used.
 - Keeps our firefighters training
 - Redirects money to enhance other county fire facilities.